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An Autumn of Protest. . .

No U.S. Intervention in Central America

By Lynne Coffin

On November 12, 1983 over 30,000 people gathered in Washington, D.C. to protest U.S. policy in Central America and the Caribbean. The demonstration, called by a broad coalition of peace, religious, solidarity and political groups, received extensive news coverage and marked the beginning of a new phase in organizing around issues concerning this region.

Demonstrators massed on the morning of the twelfth at three different sites in Washington: the State Department, Health and Human Resources and the Immigration and Naturalization Services buildings. After participating in various activities expressing the unique political relevance of the site, demonstrators joined together in a march through Washington, past the White House to the Ellipse, where a rally was held in the afternoon.

Although the temperature was dropping and the wind was ripping through the crowds, the demonstration was spirited. Speakers at the rally included representatives from Nicaragua, Grenada, El Salvador and Guatemala, the Reverend William Sloane Coffin, Reverend Jesse Jackson, and Congressman Ted Weiss, who announced his move to impeach President Reagan for his unlawful policies in Central America and the Caribbean.

The most significant aspect of the demonstration is that it represents a new phase in organizing around issues concerning Central America and the Caribbean. In July of this year a group of peace, religious, solidarity and political organizations began meeting together to consolidate work on the region. The group

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The WRL banner took to the streets of Washington at the November 12 demonstration against U.S. intervention in Central America. *Photo by Chas Lyman*

Stop the Missile Deployment in Europe

By Murray Rosenblith

Roughly one hundred thousand Americans joined millions of Europeans during the weekend of October 21-24 to protest the deployments of new American intermediate range nuclear missiles. The missiles, including ground launched Cruise and Pershing II models, will be delivered to bases in England, West Germany, Holland and Italy through 1986. The first deliveries were made to Greenham Common air base in England in November.

War Resisters League local groups were active participants and organizers across the country, joining local and regional coalitions along with nuclear freeze groups and other chapters of national peace organizations in these protests. Nationally, the League helped form the October Actions to Stop Euromissiles, a coalition of national organizations that provided an information clearinghouse and national media center to promote the Cruise and Pershing protests.

The American demonstrations were much different from the European rallies. In Europe massive crowds converged on central locations; among the gatherings there were: 400,000 people in London; 300,000 in Brussels; between 500,000 and a million in Rome; and a number of major rallies in Germany: 400,000 in Bonn, 400,000 in Hamburg; 150,000 in West Berlin; 250,000 in Stuttgart; and approximately 250,000 participated in forming a 60-mile-long human chain between Stuttgart and a Cruise deployment site in New Ulm.

Here in the United States the October actions were, mostly, small, locally-organized events which highlighted connections to the deployments. Many of the demonstrations took place at the gates of Cruise and Pershing component manufacturers or military installations with some

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Rebuilding the Non-Aligned International Peace Movement

The Merger of ICDP and IPB

By David McReynolds

The peace movement didn't become a social force until it was clear that war, when waged by industrial states, threatened all social order. The peace movement does have a long history—it begins in Europe and in this country during the last century, linked either to socialism (which had a strong anti-military orientation), or to the churches, particularly the Protestant churches of Northern Europe and the United States. This article is part history, and part report from meetings I attended in Gotenburg, Sweden this past September which were an attempt to revitalize this non-aligned international peace movement.

One reflection on the development of many national organizations working for peace was the formation, in 1892, in Rome, of the International Peace Bureau [IPB]. The IPB was active enough that, by 1910 it had won the Nobel Peace Prize. But the IPB has had a checkered history, being less than active for much of its 90-year history. During World War II it was hardly active at all, and after World War II, when first re-organized, it represented a kind of bland legalistic neutralism with primary emphasis on the United Nations. (The IPB offices are in Geneva.)

Let's shift forward to 1945 and the nuclear bomb. Just as the First World War had finally led to fully committed pacifist movements, the nuclear bomb caused many, who had fought in the Second World War, and who believed there were times when violence was necessary, to become "nuclear pacifists"—to sharply reject the nuclear bomb. The religious pacifist movement born of the First World War was the International Fellowship of Reconciliation [IFoR]—primarily a Christian body. The secular pacifist international, organized immediately after the war, by men and women who had actively resisted the war, was War Resisters International [WRI]. Both these groups stood the test of the Second World War, despite massive arrests, and the outlawing, in Germany, Italy, and Japan of all our sections (nor have we ever been permitted to establish sections in the Soviet Bloc).

But neither the WRI nor the IFoR could offer a true home to the mushrooming "anti-bomb" movements that rejected the nuclear policies of both Washington and Moscow. Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament [CND] in England isn't new—it shook up British politics more than 20 years ago. SANE was born in the late 1950's.

David McReynolds is a member of the WRL national staff.

There were massive movements in Japan, Greece, France, Sweden, and Germany. Moscow had launched the World Peace Council in the early 1950's, but while this was heavily funded by the Soviets, it was too obviously linked to Moscow to appeal to most of the new peace groups.

It was in the period of 1960-62 that several figures, including Peggy Duff, Bertrand Russell, Homer Jack, and A. J. Muste, created the International Confederation for Disarmament and Peace

Peggy Duff, the late General Secretary of ICDP.

[ICDP]. WRL affiliated to it, along with our parent body, WRI. The ICDP was seen not as an "anti-Communist" peace movement (it could hardly be that, since the Yugoslavs affiliated to it) but as an actively non-aligned body, offering a home for the new, non-pacifist "anti-bomb" groups, and at the same time making possible creative cooperation between pacifist and non-pacifist peace workers. At its high point the ICDP counted not only WRL but also the FOR, AFSC, and SANE as U.S. affiliates. ICDP did a tremendous job under the tireless, fiercely independent leadership of Peggy Duff, a personal friend to many of us, and the figure who would help bring the Japanese more directly into the international peace movement. (The Ven. Sato of Gensuikyo holds the post of Chair of the IPB.)

But the irony was that no sooner was ICDP formed than the non-pacifist peace movement melted away, dissolved by the "partial test ban treaty," and also by the Vietnam War which, from the mid-60's on dominated a decade of international peace work. (And it was a hard 10 years. The American FOR left ICDP because ICDP actively supported the right of the Vietnamese to engage in a struggle for national liberation—even if they chose violence; others were angry with ICDP because of its total opposition to the Warsaw Pact invasion of Czechoslovakia.)

Peggy Duff, General Secretary of the ICDP, had a special place in her heart for Mobilization for Survival, speaking at one of its early conferences, and helping give the MFS its nonaligned character. Peggy died shortly before the Second UN Session on Disarmament.

Meanwhile the IPB had taken a new lease on life after Sean MacBride, a Nobel Prize winner himself, and former head of Amnesty International, took on the post of President of IPB.

At the best of times money is scarce. The ICDP had depended heavily on Peggy, and survived on her doing the work of ten. With her death, her closest supporters, including Sheila Cooper, began to take seriously the suggestion of two Finnish leaders, Ilkka Taipale and Errki Tuomioja, that the IPB and ICDP be merged. (They drafted a long and useful document on merging the groups— xerox copies available from the WRL office for $2.50.)

During the Berlin Conference of END (European Nuclear Disarmament) in 1982 a tentative agreement was reached, involving the Americans, British, Scandinavians, Japanese, and Yugoslavs. Special thanks goes to Bruce Kent— head of the British CND—for his work in pressing for the merger. At the Annual General Meeting of the IPB in Gotenberg, Sweden, the merger took place—on September 8. As a symbol of the merger two Vice Presidents were added from groups that had been active in ICDP— Bogdan Osolnik of Yugoslavia, and myself from the United States. On December 7th the War Resisters League itself affiliated to IPB.

The road that must be followed is one that must bring environmental groups, women's groups, and independent left groups into IPB. But there is promise that by using an old framework we can build toward the dream Peggy Duff cherished—an international which could be actively nonaligned in its pursuit of disarmament, justice, national self-determination, and human rights.

Central America

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called for the demonstration in Washington and became known as the November 12 Coalition. Over the next five months, with significant imput from the War Resisters League, the Coalition broadened and many groups deepened their commitment to organizing and educating their constituencies around changing U.S. policy toward Central America and the Caribbean. As the situation in Central America and the Caribbean has worsened, the significance of this coalition has become even more apparent.

It is clear to anyone reading the newspaper or watching the news that U.S. policy towards Central America and the Caribbean has grown increasingly hostile. Militarization of the region has increased dramatically, with thousands of U.S. military personnel spread throughout the region in El Salvador, Honduras, Guatemala and an admitted occupying force in Grenada. The military attacks against Nicaragua, blatantly backed by the U.S. government, have escalated. Not only have raids on oil depots destroyed much needed oil supplies, but the contras have stepped up their attacks in border areas. These attacks include the killing and kidnapping of civilians as well as the destruction of crops, particularly tobacco and coffee. The destruction of these crops has further strained the economy of Nicaragua which was already suffering pressures brought to bear by the U.S. government.

The killing of civilians by right-wing death squads continues unabated in El Salvador. In the last four years at least 37,000 civilians have been murdered by Salvadoran security forces or right-wing death squads. In the first eight months of 1983, over 3200 civilians were killed by the death squads—that is approximately 100 people a week. To really experience the enormity of these numbers, translate them into equivalent U.S. population terms—*4,500 civilians per week*.

Yet, recently, President Reagan pocket vetoed legislation that would have extended the two-year old legislation tying U.S. military aid to progress on human rights in Salvador. Continued aid was predicated on certification by the President every six months that the U.S.-backed government in El Salvador was making effective efforts to end human rights abuses. Clearly the President knew that such certification was not possible (the administration's own ambassador to El Salvador recently denounced the right-wing terror and death squads). By his action, the President has given a clear message to the terrorists that the United States is willing to tolerate abuses of human rights at even the most grotesque levels. All the while, the President suggests that the Sandanista government in Nicaragua cannot be allowed to continue in its present form because of the alleged human rights abuses there. These abuses are cited by the administration as being press censorship, lack of pluralism and elections to be held in 1985.

It is clear that without the support of the U.S. government, the government in El Salvador would collapse overnight. As in South Vietnam, U.S. policy of support for a corrupt, right-wing dictatorship, with very little or no support among its people is a poisonous trap. We prop up the government which has little or no support, and then we must continue to prop it up. In Nicaragua where the Sandinistas clearly have the support of the majority of the population, we are attempting by illegal and covert, as well as overt, actions to destroy the government. Parallels to our policies in the 1970's and 1980's toward Chile abound.

Changing these policies will require an enormous effort on the part of the American people. There is an information gap that exists that can only be remedied by educational efforts. The news media has done a poor job of informing the American people of the true facts concerning Central America and the Caribbean. They have done even less to analyze the facts. And they certainly will never do the job of explaining to the American people what needs to be done to change these policies.

While the work that needs to be done is great, we have taken a first step by forming the November 12 Coalition which was instrumental in aiding local coalitions to form to work on issues concerning the region. The November 12 Coalition will continue to work on a national level and encourage local groups, formed for the purpose of mobilizing, to continue their work by broadening and deepening their local coalition efforts. Additionally, there are many creative projects which have begun in the last several months which WRL members can participate in.

Two projects formed in response to the situation in Nicaragua are particularly important. "Witness for Peace" is a project which grew out of the delegation of religious and peace activists who went to Nicaragua in July and held a vigil on the Nicaraguan/Honduran border as well as a demonstration at the American Embassy in Managua. "Witness for Peace" is maintaining vigils on the Nicaraguan/Honduran border by groups of Americans who will travel to Nicaragua for one or two week periods. In addition, another project has been initiated to send working brigades to Nicaragua to help harvest the coffee crop. Participation in these brigades, which are international in nature, not only shows solidarity with the Nicaraguan people, but also has a very practical purpose. Because of the U.S. policies, the militia in Nicaragua has been mobilized to its fullest capacity. This has meant that people who would normally be helping to harvest the coffee crops are unable to do so because they are defending the borders of their country. The successful harvesting of the coffee crop is essential to the economy of Nicaragua—an economy which has been attacked and undermined by U.S. policies. (Write to the WRL office for further details on these projects.)

Other activities for the coming months are in the process of being finalized. One important aspect of this work will certainly be an emphasis on targetting Congress.

Local coalition building is vital to this processs. It is important to help people in other progressive organizations see the links between issues that they are working on and U.S. policies in Central America. Be instrumental in bringing groups together. Contact every religious, peace, political, solidarity, women's group, union, welfare rights group, etc. Find a common ground and work together. There really is strength in unity.

In July of this year I stood on the border between Nicaragua and Honduras and was struck by an enormous sense of shame and outrage at the policies of the government of our country. We must work together to change those policies or we will have to bear the responsibility of the consequences of those policies on the people of Central America and the Caribbean.

Lynne Coffin is on the WRL Executive Committee, and has represented the League at the November 12 Coalition meetings.

Igal Roodenko and Myrtle Solomon Hospitalized

Igal Roodenko, present staffperson and past chair of the War Resisters League had a major heart attack on the day before New Year's. After two weeks in the hospital, the doctors determined that he needed bypass surgery. Igal is now recovering. Since we don't know how much longer he will be in the hospital, if you would like to send a note to him, please address it to the office, and we'll be sure to pass it on to him.

In London, Myrtle Solomon, chairwoman of the War Resisters International was in the hospital for major surgery for removal of cancerous tumors. She will be recuperating for several months. If you'd like to write Myrtle, please write c/o WRI, 55 Dawes St., London SE17 1EL, England.

We wish Igal and Myrtle a speedy and full recovery.

Missile Deployment *continued from page 1*

role in sending the missiles to Europe. While these demonstrations were not large in size, for many of the locations they were the largest rallies that have ever taken place there. These locations included Orlando, FL, home of Martin-Marietta Corp., prime contractor for the Pershing II; Rockwell-Collins, Inc., a Cruise contractor in Cedar Rapids, IA; Williams International, in Detroit; General Dynamics in St. Louis; Kollsman Instruments in Merrimac, NH; Oshkosh Truck Company (which manufactures transporters for the Pershing II) in Oshkosh, WI. Other actions included petitioning, congressional home office lobbying to demand a halt to the deployments and calling on members of Congress to cut the funding for placing the weapons systems.

Larger regional rallies also took place. On October 6 over 15,000 people demonstrated during the official ceremonies commemorating the 300th anniversary of German settlement in the United States. While West German president Karl Carstens and Vice-President George Bush attended a lavish state dinner, a spirited crowd braved chilly temperatures to hear speeches from American and European peace activists. The next week, on October 15, over 20,000 people formed a human chain around the 17-mile perimeter of the Rocky Flats nuclear weapons plant outside of Denver. Rocky Flats manufactures the plutonium triggers for all American nuclear weapons.

There were regional rallies in Raleigh, North Carolina (400); Austin, Texas (6000); 1000 people braved pouring rains in both Chicago and Detroit; Portland, Oregon (4000); and Seattle (1500). Eight thousand people from across the Northeast journeyed to the Seneca Army Depot in Romulus, New York, for a protest. Home of the summer-long Women's Encampment for a Future of Peace and Justice, the Seneca Depot is a major trans-shipment point for military supplies (including missile parts) headed for Europe.

The October 22 rally near the Seneca Army Depot brought 5,000 people to upstate New York to demonstrate against the deployment of Cruise and Pershing II missiles in Europe.
Photo by Ed Hedemann

Fifteen thousand people formed a human "billboard" down the entire length of Market Street in San Francisco and nearly 2000 people formed a candlelight human chain stretching 22 blocks between the U.S. and Soviet Missions to the UN in New York City. On October 23 a crowd of 8000 on the Boston Common listened to a program of speakers and musicians which included:

The NYC 339 Affinity group spent some time blockading and some time decorating the fence at the Seneca Army Depot on October 24.
Photo by Ed Hedemann

Barry Commoner, Jesse Jackson, Grace Paley, Holly Near and Odetta. Six thousand people joined a "parade for peace" through El Segundo, California, a Los Angeles suburb which is home to many military-industrial companies.

In addition to these events, there were over 40 civil disobediences which resulted in some 1100 arrests. Close to one thousand people attempted to enter the Avco Systems, Inc. plant in Wilmington, MA on October 24 to leaflet and petition workers there. State police and national guard kept them out (roughly), but made no arrests. Military officials did arrest some 400 people who entered the Seneca Depot; and police took away close to 600 of the estimated 1800 people blockading the corporate headquarters of Honeywell International in Minneapolis, MN. Fifty people were arrested for attempting to block the gates at Davis Air Force Base outside of Tucson, AZ, joining 35 people arrested for a similar action at Pease Air Force Base near Portsmough, NH. Other sit-ins took place in San Francisco, Chicago, the Pentagon, the Savannah River Plant in Aiken, SC; Kirtland Air Force Base in Albuquerque, NM; and Madison, WI.

While the widespread actions were encouraging, many people felt they lacked a significant impact. No one expected demonstrations on the European scale, but many local organizers thought these demonstrations could have been larger.

Canadian demonstrations give us a good measure of this shortcoming. In a country with ten percent of the U.S. population, they turned out almost as many people, an estimated 75–100,000 in 40 rallies across Canada. The larger ones included 30,000 people in Toronto; 20,000 people in Montreal (where 5,000 people also formed a human chain from the American consulate to. the Soviet mission) and 10,000 in Vancouver.

A big part of the problem may have been earlier lack of coordination between national peace groups in the U.S. The Euromissiles coalition did not really begin operating until eight weeks before the weekend of October 21. There was also a lack of agreement on whether there should be any national coordination at all or if there should be any larger rallies planned. Despite earlier appeals from European groups to join them in demonstrations, the American groups only worked out their agreements late in the summer.

Representatives from about 10 groups, including the WRL, are continuing to meet to critique the fall events and plan for further Euromissile protests.

Murray Rosenblith, a WRL executive committee member, served as national media coordinator for the October Actions to Stop Euromissiles.

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So, How's the International Doing?

A Report on the Recent Activities of the War Resisters International

By Dorie Wilsnack

The American media is finally covering the European peace movement—with Greenham demonstration photos on the front page, and Green Party members on "Meet the Press." It is an important step forward. Viewing it from within, however, as an activist involved in international peace work, I find that it promotes two inaccurate impressions. First, the international nonviolent, anti-militarist movement is a much broader one than the press depicts: it is more than an anti-nuclear effort; it includes individual acts of resistance as well as mass demonstrations; it stretches from the Sami people in northern Scandinavia who blockaded the construction of a dam that would destroy their land, to the organization of soldiers in Israel who refuse to serve in the occupied territories, to the Mothers of the Disappeared who maintain vigils and refuse to let the Argentine government hide the atrocities it has committed. Second, the celebratory nature of the large demonstrations are only one side of the coin; in truth, in many parts of the world, it is terribly difficult to be a pacifist: it means prison sentences, government harassment, and economic hardships.

For example, this autumn, the editors of *Ikkevold* ("Nonviolence") the newspaper published by the War Resisters International (WRI) section in Norway (FMK), were raided in their homes by the Oslo police. Their diaries and address books were confiscated. The organization's offices were raided as well, and membership lists, files and archives were taken. The justification for these acts was the charge that *Ikkevold* had published an article revealing "state secrets," in particular an article about the American submarine warning system, SOSUS, located off the coast of Northern Norway. The case will eventually be brought to court, but in the meantime, these raids were encouraged by the Norweigian Defense minister. There has been a huge public outcry from the general public and the political left which makes note of the fact that this is the first political raid of this kind since World War II when Norway was controlled by the Nazis.

Protests from around the world are encouraged. Send your letters to:

- The Prime Ministers Office/
  Statsministerens kontor,
  Akersgaten 42
  Oslo 1, NORWAY
- Stortingert (The Parliament)
  Carl Johans gate
  Oslo 1, NORWAY
- Defense Minister Anders Sjastad,
  Sorkedalsveien
  Sorkedalsveien 148
  Oslo 7, NORWAY

and send a copy to:
FMK (WRI Section)
Goteborggaten 8
Oslo 5, NORWAY
FMK also welcomes support letters.

Every year, War Resisters International gives special time and attention to the abuses faced by conscientious objectors. The right to refuse to kill does not exist at all in many countries. Even where it does exist it is a fragile right, subject to cancellation when it threatens the smooth operation of a country's military machine. In recent years, CO rights seem to be dwindling and harsh punishments increasing. WRI carries out an annual December campaign called Prisoners for Peace, collecting the prison addresses of young resisters and distributing this roster world-wide. People are encouraged to then send holiday greetings and letters of support to these prisoners. It is a small act but multiplied by the hundreds, and on an international scale, it provides the resister with a true sense of international support and it lets both the prison officials and the respective governments know that these political prisoners will not be allowed to remain invisible and isolated.

This year, the WRI added to its campaign activities by focusing special attention on three countries where the treatment of resisters is particularly unjust and abusive: South Africa, France, and Portugal. They have prepared background papers on these three, and provide special suggestions for protesting to each government in question. If you would like this information or a copy of this year's "honor roll" of prisoners with their addresses, send $1.00 to me, Dorie Wilsnack, at WRL/West, 85 Carl St., San Francisco 94117.

The War Resisters International provides us at WRL with an excellent network for learning about the broader nonviolent movement. As the Prisoners for Peace campaign shows, WRI goes beyond simply being an international telephone tree, to acting as a support system and political pressure organization. Last summer, three of us from the WRL attended the War Resisters International Council meeting where we were able to observe and participate in the

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Dorie Wilsnack is on the staff of the WRL/West.

Position Available

The War Resisters League will be expanding its newsletter to a 16-page, monthly publication. A part-time job as editor of this new publication will be open in Spring, 1984.

The job will include article solicitation, correspondence with writers, copyediting, preparing stories for and coordinating production schedules, and attending regular meetings with an editorial board. Applicants should have experience in journalistic writing and editing and be able to meet deadlines. Good command of grammar and punctuation is also necessary. You should also be familiar with the work of the WRL and the nonviolent movement for peace and justice.

If you are interested and think you have the necessary qualifications for this job, please send a resume and a letter about yourself and your skills to: Staff Search, War Resisters League, 339 Lafayette St., New York, NY 10012. WRL is an affirmative action employer.

War Resisters International

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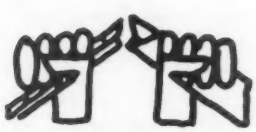
playing out of these various roles. Joanne Sheehan and Craig Simpson who attended, are both elected members of the 18 member Council, and I am the representative from the War Resisters League itself.

The Council meeting, which took place in Paris in July 1983, covered dozens of topics in its four-day session. Among the highlights:

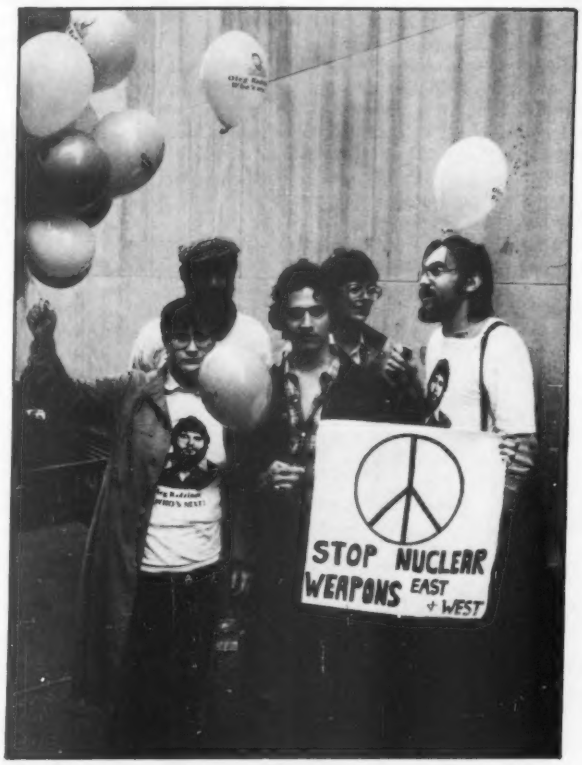
- The next full conference of the WRI will take place in India in December 1985 or January 1986. Everyone who is a member of the WRL is invited to attend along with members from sections all over the world. It is anticipated that this location will attract participation from the WRI sections in the Asian continent and around the Pacific who have had little opportunity to attend European conferences. Issues that are pertinent to the Third World are expected to be a major part of the agenda.
- The WRI welcomed a new section, the Union Pacifiste de Quebec, and a new affiliate, the Mouvement de Objectors de Conscience, from France.
- We heard reports from two special conferences, a seminar on nonviolent civilian defense attended by peace researchers and activists from many countries, and a gathering of nonviolent trainers from all over Europe. An intensive discussion of nonviolent training in different countries gave us an interesting look at different cultural styles and political goals.
- We had extensive discussions on how to publicize and promote the work of the War Resisters International. A new brochure has been produced which we hope to distribute widely.

We also discussed use of the *WRI News* as a forum for keeping internationally informed about each other. The unifying thought behind this discussion was that activists everywhere can benefit from recognizing and strengthening our sense of being part of an international peace movement. If you would like to subscribe to the *WRI News*, it can be ordered from WRI, 55 Dawes Street, London SE17 1EL England. The price is $6.00 a year. This may be the easiest and best way to supplement the coverage you get in the American press. I recommend it, and I welcome you to our international community.



Around the Office...

Student visitors to the WRL get a "non-aligned political view" from literature display in WRL office. From left to right: Abel Miniz, Puerto Rico; Rainer Arzinger, German Democratic Republic; Kristina Wikberg, Finland. *Photo by David McReynolds*



October demonstration in support of Oleg Radzinsky, Soviet peace activist under pressure from the KGB. From left to right: Cathy Fitzpatrick, Mikhail Ostrovsky; Steve Becker; Joanne Landy; Sergei Batovrin. Ostrovsky and Batovrin were part of the Moscow independent peace group and were expelled by the Soviet government. They have joined the struggle for disarmament and human rights in the United States.
Photo by David McReynolds

A Time to Remember

A. J. Muste
January 8, 1885 – February 11, 1967
William Douthard
January 6, 1947 – January 4, 1981

January is the time when the future has a rosy glow from lingering holiday lights and new plans seem easiest to make.

It is also the time when we in the War Resisters League reflect on the contributions made by two of our past colleagues whose births are commemorated this month. Their inspiration guides and sustains us as we try to move ahead on the path to peace.

Both A. J. Muste and William Douthard viewed their belief in nonviolence as a commitment to social and economic justice as well as to disarmament. A. J., a Dutch Reformed minister, used his pulpit to express support for the early American trade union movement, and when his congregation ceased supporting him, he left to establish the Brookwood Labor College. Half a century later, William found his calling in New York's Bedford Stuyvesant, where the problems of the minority poor were most profound and where his brand of organizing was particularly successful. The paths of the two men crossed in their work with the Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr.—William was a Southern Christian Leadership student organizer, and A. J. worked with King to apply the traditional principles of nonviolence to the civil rights movement. The war in Indochina also brought A. J. and William together—A. J. was a leader of the National Mobilization Committee to End the War, bringing together for fruitful coalition work representatives from many disparate groups; and William helped organize black opposition to the War.

After A. J.'s death, some WRL people decided the best way to carry on his work and develop his ideas would be to establish a foundation which could initiate educational projects and make grants to organizations already doing valuable political work. Thus, the A. J. Muste Memorial Institute was founded. It was appropriate, of course, for William Douthard to be a member of its Board of Directors, and he so served until his untimely death.

The Institute continues to promote nonviolence in its broadest form, and its concerns, therefore, include racism, sexism, and social and economic justice, in addition to disarmament. We made about 20 project grants in 1983; own and operate the Peace Pentagon in New York for the benefit of movement groups; have a publications program that includes a biography of A. J. by Nat Hentoff and eight pamphlets on different aspects of nonviolence; are readying a library of basic pacifist works for public use; and are planning a conference on pacifism for young people. While it is the events of the day which most directly guide the Institute's work, it is the spirit of A.J. Muste and William Douthard which help provide the energy for that work.

Wendy Schwartz
Executive Director,
A.J. Muste Memorial Institute

Contributions to the Muste Institute are tax-deductible. They, and inquiries, can be addressed to the Institute at 339 Lafayette Street, New York, NY 10012.

WRL NEWS

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WRL News (from 1967 on) is available on microfilm from University Microfilms International, 300 N. Zeeb Road, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48106.

WRL Statement of Purpose

The War Resisters League affirms that war is a crime against humanity. We therefore are determined not to support any kind of war, international or civil, and to strive nonviolently for the removal of all causes of war.

I support this statement and wish to enroll as a member of the War Resisters League.

Signature _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip ____

Send to: **War Resisters League**
339 Lafayette St.
New York, NY 10012

Draft Resistance Packet

Besides making a strong case for non-cooperation with Selective Service System, this packet contains articles on

- the history of draft resistance in the United States
- the effects of the military on soldiers, the poor, and third world communities
- women and war resistance
- organizing ideas (e.g., setting up defense funds, doing local campaigns, developing complicity statements).

For a copy of this packet, mail this coupon and $3 to War Resisters League, 339 Lafayette Street, New York, NY 10012.

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